methods having one or two living children as a mark of recognition to them. The card enables these acceptors to be accorded preferential treatment in the areas decided by the State Govt. concerned. Some areas where such preferential treatment would be feasible are sanction of loans, grants and subsidies, house allotment, educational benefits etc.

4. Some States have introduced a scheme of giving lottery tickets to acceptors of terminal methods.

5. States like, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have introduced schemes of giving long-term maturity bonds to the acceptors of sterilisation having daughters, only with a purpose to counter the desire to have son(s). Other States/UTs have been advised to introduce such a Scheme.

Shortage of anti-T.B. drugs

219. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a shortage of anti-T.B. drugs in the country and the prices of the same shot up to six times than the original price during the last six months, or so;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the prices of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) There have been no reports of general shortage of anti-T.B. drugs in the country. The prices of anti-T.B. drugs are fixed/revised as per the provisions of the OPCO, 1987 after careful scrutiny. This ensure that the price increases approved by the Government are actually related to the input costs. Prices of anti-T.B. drugs have been raised upwards by about 15-25% since May, 91 to compensate the manufacturers for increase in input costs due to exchange rate adjustment.

Heart diseases among the children

220. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that more than two million children are suffering from rheumatic heart disease in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to start Heart Care Units in various district Hospitals to save the children from dying of heart disease; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) According to the information furnished by ICMR, in 1991 prevalence of Rheumatic fever and Rheumatic Heart Diseases has been observed to be in the range of 1.4 to 5.1 per 1000 children in the age group of 5—15 years i.e. 0.62 million case in this age group.

(b) At present, Central Government have no scheme to open Heart Care Units in district hospitals. Necessary facilities for treatment of heart problem are available in most of the major hospitals in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Astroligical calculations on family planning

221. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that one Shri Dinesh Verma has made a unique discovery in astrology which pertains to the field of family planning and it has been claimed by Shri Verma that by calculation of time through astrology, family planning is possible; and

(b) whether Government propose to secure the services of Shri Verma on a trial